

Filed for intro on 04/09/98

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 632
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Verties Sails
and the great 1997-1998 Shelby State
Community College men's basketball team on
finishing as runner-up in the prestigious National
Junior College Athletic Association Tournament.

WHEREAS, displaying rare skill, awesome shooting, a stingy defense and fierce
determination, the outstanding 1997-1998 Shelby State Community College men's basketball
team has admirably continued and added to the finest hoops traditions of this state and nation
by finishing as runner-up in the always tough National Junior College Athletic Association
Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Shelby State's glorious record of accomplishment included capturing the
Region 7 title and the championship trophy of the Tennessee Junior Community College Athletic
Association Tournament, which they won with a sterling 109-99 victory over Aquinas in the
finals; and

WHEREAS, this was the first season that the Saluqis had been to the National Junior
College Athletic Association Tournament since the fabled 1987-1988 season; and

WHEREAS, despite being unranked, Shelby State put on a very impressive performance
at this classic tournament, which is held in Hutchinson, Kansas; the Saluqis won three games,
losing only to defending national champion and unbeaten Indian Hills, Iowa in the championship
game; and

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WHEREAS, the tremendously talented team finished with a commendable 27-8 overall record; and

WHEREAS, during the 1997-1998 campaign, the highly admired and respected Verties Sails won his 417th game in eighteen brilliant seasons as the Saluqis' head coach; and

WHEREAS, because of his excellence as a basketball coach and as a human being, a building at Shelby State has been named in Coach Sails' honor; and

WHEREAS, before coming to Shelby State, Coach Sails won 124 games and the 1974 TSSAA Class AAA championship as the boys' basketball head coach at Melrose High School in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 1997-198 Saluqis were: Lorico Duncan, Arthur Faulkner, Gerald Burris, Kontar Macklin, Derrick Macklin, Terrick Brown, Charley Bass, Samuel Bachelor, Derrick Lane,, Ronald Evans, Kyle Mason, Johnnie Wooton, Antonio Steveson, Christopher Williams, Maurice Merrel and Antwan Anderson; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and congratulate this exemplary team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Verties Sails and the 1997-1998 Shelby State Community College men's basketball team on their numerous accomplishments, including finishing as runner-up in the prestigious National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament, and wish them well in their future endeavors, both on and off the court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.